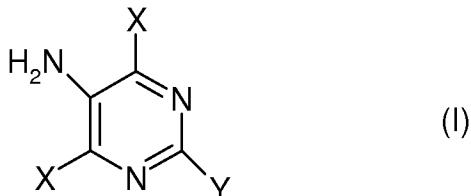


In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, and 17, and add new claims 19 and 20 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



wherein

X is halogen;

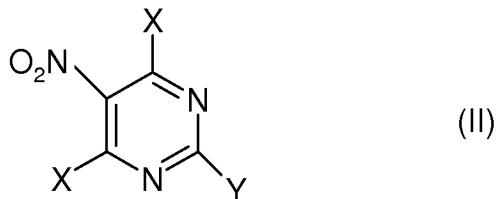
Y is ZR¹;

Z is oxygen or sulphur; and

R¹ is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl;

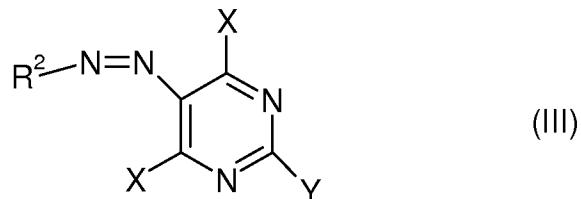
the process comprising either:

a. hydrogenating a compound of formula (II):



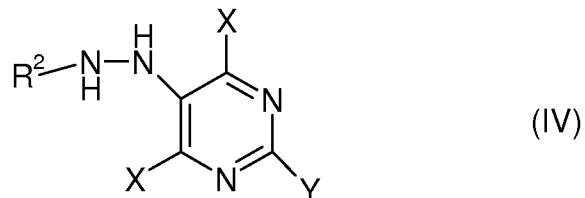
with a suitable transition metal catalyst in a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon as solvent; or,

b. conducting a one-pot hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III):



wherein R² is phenyl optionally substituted by chloro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or (C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂N;

(i) firstly at about 20°C to form a compound of formula (IV):



(ii) and then at about 40°C;

both steps (i) and (ii) being carried out in the presence of a suitable catalyst and in the presence of a suitable solvent.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is chloro.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein Z is sulphur.

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ wherein R¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ haloalkyl.

5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~ wherein Y is ZR¹; Z is sulphur; and R¹ is n-propyl.

6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the transition metal catalyst for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is selected from platinum, palladium and a combination of platinum with a transition metal selected from vanadium, iron and manganese.

7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the transition metal catalyst is on a carbon support.

8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the solvent for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon solvent.

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 10 to 90°C.

10. (original) A process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C.

11. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 1 to 10 bar.

12. (original) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.

13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which X is chloro, Y is ZR¹; Z is sulphur; and R¹ is n-propyl; the process comprising hydrogenating a compound of formula (II) in solvent comprising an ether at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar, a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C and a Pt/V/C catalyst.

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum and a mixture of platinum and vanadium.

15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 13 wherein the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum on carbon 5-15%w/w; platinum 2-10%w/w and vanadium 0.2-3%w/w on carbon.

16. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 12, ~~13 or 14~~ wherein the solvent for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ester, an ether, a hydrocarbon and a ketone.

17. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 13, ~~14 or 15~~ wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) or (IV) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.

18. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which X is chloro, Y is ZR¹; Z is sulphur; and R¹ is n-propyl; the process comprising a one-pot hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in a solvent of ethyl acetate at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar and using a Pt/C catalyst.

19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

X is chloro;

Z is sulphur;

R¹ is n-propyl;

the transition metal catalyst for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is selected from platinum, palladium and a combination of platinum with a transition metal selected from vanadium, iron and manganese; and

the solvent for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon solvent;

20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 19 wherein:

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C;

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar;

the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum on carbon 5-15%w/w, platinum 2-10%w/w and vanadium 0.2-3%w/w on carbon; and

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (III) or (IV) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.